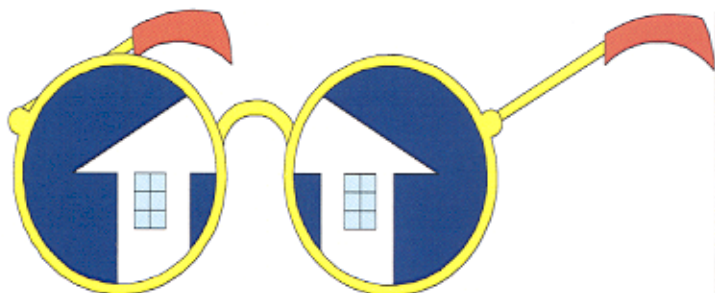


Super Sentinel



February, 2005

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 1

Terri's Tidbits

Every now and again I like to try a little something different for the Neighborhood Watch captain's meetings. The December meeting was a joint effort by all of the Neighborhood Watch Coordinators and was open to all captains and neighborhood residents in the city of Mesa. There were two programs on the agenda. The first program was given by Det. Frank Torres of the Special Investigation Unit of the Mesa Police Department. Detective Torres talked about neighborhood "stash houses", houses where drugs can be brought to be repackaged. This was just a short "teaser" presentation to introduce to the audience how to recognize stash houses and who to call. I plan on having Det. Torres come to another meeting to make his complete presentation. It was very informative and I know that drugs and stash houses have been of particular concern for many of Mesa's neighborhoods.

The second program of the evening was given by Israel Torres, the Registrar of Contractors for the State of Arizona. He and his staff presented facts and information on Arizona's licensing laws for contractors, landscapers and handymen. His staff shared case information on repair scams, victims and the suspects. Their portion of the program was also very informative and I hope to be able to host another "Registrar of Contractors Academy" again. It was especially informative to those in the audience that had either had repair work or landscaping done

or were contemplating having the work done.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO REINSTATE!!!!!! Is your Neighborhood Watch currently active? Did you have your two events in 2004? Did you send your attendance sheets into me as your documentation? I am in the process of checking my files and sending letters to those of you who are missing the required documentation. It is getting increasingly more important for you to keep your Neighborhood Watch active. First and more importantly, aware and alert neighbors are proven deterrents against criminal activity. Second, if you are unfortunate enough to lose your Neighborhood Watch sign by becoming inactive, it will be more difficult in the future to get the sign replaced. New procedures and budgetary constraints have forced us to adjust our guidelines. In the future, Neighborhood Watch groups who have lost their signs will have to remain active for a full calendar year before the request will be made to have the sign reinstated. Make sure your Neighborhood Watch is active — if you did not meet the requirements in 2004 — **Call me at 480-644-3692!!** Tell me what you are doing, when you are doing it and I will flag your file.

Have you got a friend who lives on another street in your community or lives behind you? Have you ever considered recruiting them for the Neighborhood Watch program? Think of the possibilities if you knew the neighbors that bordered your property behind you were also committed to crime prevention. Do

you already know those neighbors? Would you like to meet them? One of the biggest perks about belonging to a neighborhood watch is that you are given the opportunity to meet your neighbors, make new friends and do it in the comfort of your neighborhood! Many times we find that active neighborhoods where neighbors know each other and are already watching out for each other are meeting the requirements of the Neighborhood Watch program before they even are aware of what those requirements are. They are already having block parties, picnics or BBQ's. For them it takes little effort to go ahead and join the program to make it official. I challenge you to go ahead and get your neighbors and friends involved. Your neighborhood is the winner either way!!!

Important Telephone Numbers



Terri Teten 644-3692
Superstition Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

Emergency or Crime in Progress....
911

Crime Prevention Unit.....
.....644-2300, option 5
Crime Prevention FAX644-2800
Police Non-Emergency... 644-2211
Graffiti Hotline.....644-3083
Gang Hotline.....644-4264
Fraud Alert Hotline.....644-2345
Silent Witness.....1-800-343-TIPS
Narcotics Hotline644-NARC

Stash House Indicators

What is a "stash house"? A stash house is a residence, apartment, duplex or a business that is used for storing, packaging and/or repackaging large quantities of narcotics.

The following lists the typical indicators of a stash house. These indicators alone do not necessarily mean that the occupants of the home are running a drug stash house. However, if these indicators or any suspicious activity is observed at the residence it may warrant investigation.



- > Most stash houses are rental homes.
- > Stash house caretakers prefer homes with attached garages.
- > The yard is unkempt, although sometimes they send someone periodically to clean it up to avoid attention.
- > Occupants tend to keep to themselves and they will not be visible on a daily basis.
- > If the occupants are actually living in the stash house, they will not appear to hold a regular job, or have a "normal" pattern of lifestyle.
- > Different types of vehicles, especially vans and pickup trucks will enter and exit the garage at different hours of the day or night (quite often they prefer to work in the night time or early morning hours).
- > The vehicles arriving at the stash house will have different license plates on them, including Arizona, California, Texas, New Mexico and Mexico. They may often display paper "buyer" or "dealer" tags. They may also use these license plates interchangeably with all of the vehicles.
- > You may not see anyone at the stash house for several days or weeks, and then there will be a lot of activity (as described above) at the house.
- > There may be an accumulation of advertisement material on the front door.
- > Stash house occupants do not usually put their trash out for regular collection, but instead, prefer to dump it at another location themselves.

Community members are encouraged to contact the Mesa Police Department drug interdiction number at 480-262-1174 to report suspicious activity. Callers may remain anonymous.



HELP ELIMINATE AUTO THEFT (H.E.A.T) V.I.N. ETCHING ON VEHICLE WINDOWS EVENT SCHEDULE



**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2005 — 3PM TO 5PM— MESA WEST TARGET— 1230 S. LONGMORE
(SW CORNER OF SOUTHERN & LONGMORE)**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2005 — 4PM TO 6PM — MESA EAST TARGET— 1525 S. POWER RD.
(SW CORNER OF POWER & SOUTHERN)**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2005 — 4PM TO 6PM — MESA POLICE CENTRAL SUBSTATION —
120 N. ROBSON ST.**

For more information call Holly Hosac, Mesa Police Crime Prevention Unit — 480-644-2300, option 5

OPERATION IDENTIFICATION

Operation Identification is one of the core components of the Neighborhood Watch since the program's inception in the late 1960's and is now used by law enforcement agencies through out the world. Operation Identification involves marking property with a unique identifying number (Driver's License number and state code, i.e.: B123456AZ) and a sticker is placed in the residence window or door showing participation in the program in order to discourage burglary or theft.

When personal property is stolen and a police report is made the officer will ask if the victim has the serial number or an Owner Applied Number (O.A.N.) on the stolen article. Identifiable articles can be put into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), a computerized database that stores criminal justice information including stolen articles. Once put into NCIC, the article can be tracked through any law enforcement agency in the United States.

Many items such as bicycles, electronic equipment, TV's, VCR's, etc. have manufacturer applied serial numbers to individually identify their products. These numbers are either engraved or stamped on the item prior to being shipped out for resale. Other items such as tools, lawn equipment or golf clubs are marked only with a model number, which is not unique to that individual tool. However, many owners do not document the serial number or even notice that there is no serial number until the article is stolen. Operation Identification was designed to give the owner the opportunity to use a unique number on all of the property to show ownership, whether they documented manufacture numbers or not. Driver's Licenses are used since that is the only national database accessible by all law enforcement agencies.



Burglary is one of the most frequently committed crimes in the United States. Participation in Operation Identification is one step that citizens can take to protect their possessions from theft or burglary. When used correctly Operation Identification has shown dramatic results in its ability to reduce burglaries.

ID-Ur-BIKE – A New Approach

Occasionally, even the best of programs needs to be examined and looked at with "fresh" eyes to see how it can be altered or "tweaked" to accommodate current trends or activities. Many times the program has been used so successfully that, while everyone knows about the program and its successes, they overlook the fact that if used in a different way it can be just as effective. Operation Identification is one of those successful programs that works well when used, but people don't always remember to use it. Trying to come up with different approaches to the problem of stolen property identification and recovery, especially for the winter visitors of Mesa, the Mesa Police Crime Prevention Unit reexamined their approach to encouraging residents to use Operation Identification. "ID-Ur-Bike" was the result.

The ID-Ur-Bike concept is simple. The resident documents the manufacture's serial number of the bicycle, 3-wheeled vehicle, motorized chair, etc., on a form. If there is no serial number, then the Driver's License of the owner, plus the state two letter code, is engraved on the item and documented on the same form. This documentation can be used in reporting the items stolen or for proof of ownership to reclaim the property when found. The resident is also encouraged to document all other items in their home, using the same method. For those collectibles or antiques pictures will serve as documentation. The forms are then kept by the resident giving them a complete and identifiable inventory of all personal property.

The ID-Ur-Bike program was launched on Monday, January 17, 2005, as a joint partnership between the Mesa Police Crime Prevention Unit and the Good Life RV Resort Neighborhood Watch, 3405 E. Main St. Neighborhood Watch captains, Warren and Linda Rice, along with Senior Community Neighborhood Watch Coordinator and Crime Prevention Specialist Terri Teten, assisted park residents in documenting and engraving their bicycles and motorized chairs. Approximately 75 residents participated.

It is hoped that other senior resorts will follow the example of the Good Life Neighborhood Watch and encourage their residents to inventory and document their personal property. Engravers are available at your local library. **Any senior community can schedule an ID-Ur-Bike event by calling Terri Teten at 644-3692.** Many times the police become the unwilling recipients of stolen property that is unable to be returned to the rightful owner simply because the owner had failed to document or engrave a unique number on it. Unfortunately, the owner may then have to buy back property that once was theirs.



Mesa Police Department
Terri Teten, CPS
Crime Prevention Unit
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Mesa, AZ 85201-6697
terri.teten@cityofmesa.org

PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
MESA, ARIZONA
PERMIT NO. 160



Neighborhood Watch
Stay Active!!!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 2005

29 & 31 — R.A.D. — 5—9:30 p.m. — Red Mountain Multigenerational Facility

R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense) is a 9 -hour training. *The student must attend both 4 1/2 hour sessions.* Register through the Mesa Parks — 480-644-4449 or call Terri @ 644-3692 for details.

Upcoming H.E.A.T. (Help Eliminate Auto Theft) V.I.N. Etching Events:

Thursday, March 24, 2004

4 to 6 p.m.

Mesa East Target
1525 S. Power Rd.

Saturday, March 26, 2005

8 a.m. to Noon

Mesa Red Mountain Target
2151 N. Power Rd.

Saturday, April 9, 2005

8 a.m. to Noon

Mesa Central Target
1135 S. Gilbert Rd.

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

4 to 6 p.m.

Mesa Police Central Station
120 N. Robson St.

Saturday, May 14, 2005

8 a.m. to Noon

Mesa West Target
1230 S. Longmore Ave.

<http://www.cityofmesa.org/police.asp> or call 480-644-3692